

Notes on the Distribution of Ceratella fusca, Gray.

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A specimen of this Hydroid Zoophyte has been in the Australian Museum for a number of years placed with the Gorgonoid Corals. Only a few weeks ago, when clearing out some of the cellar-rooms in the Museum, Mr. Whitelegge found in some glass jars in spirits some very fine specimens, supposed to have been obtained in the trawl by *employés* of the Fisheries Commission of New South Wales. It does not appear, however, that any records of the trawling, dates, or depths have been recorded, and the only locality given, "off Sydney Heads," is a wide term indeed.

Genus CERATELLA, Gray, 1868.

Ceratella fusca, Gray.

Ceratella fusca, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Nov. 26, 1868, p. 579, fig. 2; Carter, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 4 ser. vol. xi. no. 61, Jan. 1873, pp. 8-10; Bale, Catalogue of Australian Hydroid Zoophytes, 1884, p. 48; Von Lendenfeld, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. 1884, vol. ix. p. 612.

Hab. Head of Bondi Bay, N. S. W. (*J. E. Gray*); Wreck Bay, south of Jervis Bay, N. S. W., found on the beach after S.E. gale (*J. Brazier*, 1870); Broughton Islands, north of Port Jackson, 33-35 fathoms (*Australian Museum*, Nov. 1880); Port Jackson Heads (*Australian Museum*, Sept. 1879); off Port Jackson Heads (*N. S. W. Fisheries Commission*), no record of depth, specimens in Australian Museum; Bondi Bay, found in grass-wrack after S.E. gale (*T. Whitelegge*, May 30, 1886).

The whole of the specimens are in a splendid state of preservation. A portion of the specimen obtained by Mr. Whitelegge in May has been mounted by him for microscopical examination.

Dr. von Lendenfeld, in his paper on the Australian Hydromedusæ (*loc. cit.* p. 612), is very curt when he says that Dr. Gray's description "is worthless." If the description is worthless the figure given by Gray is to the point in all that is required, for though this naturalist generally gave a short description of nearly everything he described, he always took care to give good figures.

Mr. H. J. Carter, F.R.S., in his valuable paper on the Hydractiniidæ (*loc. cit.* p. 10), calls attention to the excellent illustrations given by Dr. Gray, and any scientist who has seen them cannot but acquiesce. When Dr. E. P. Ramsay was in London some two years ago, he obtained from the British Museum some Hydroids, named by the authorities of that institution, and among them is a specimen of *Dchitella atrorubens*, Gray, Algoa Bay, with a reference name *Ceratella fusca*, Gray. This is undoubtedly *Dchitella atrorubens*, Gray, the Australian Museum never having received any specimen or specimens of *Ceratella fusca*, Gray, from the British Museum.—*Proc. Linn. Soc. of New South Wales*, vol. i. 2nd ser., June 30, 1886, pp. 575, 576.